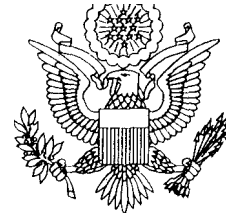


United States Department of State
*Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business
Affairs*



**Report of the Delegation
of the United States
to the
Plenipotentiary Conference
of the
International
Telecommunication
Union**

Antalya, Turkey - November 6 - 24, 2006

United States Delegation Report

International Telecommunication Union

2006 Plenipotentiary Conference

Antalya, Turkey

November 6-24, 2006

Submitted to the Secretary of State

by

Ambassador David A. Gross

Head of the United States Delegation

Dear Secretary Rice:

As Chairman of the United States Delegation to the 2006 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference, I have the honor to submit this report on the results of the work of the United States Delegation at this conference. The purpose of this treaty-level conference was to shape the direction of the ITU for the next four years: approve the budget, consider proposals for changes in the ITU Constitution, elect the Secretary-General and other senior officials, as well as elect countries to the ITU Council. The United States was re-elected to the ITU Council with one of the greatest vote totals that the U.S. has received in ITU history and accomplished its other objectives for this conference.

The United States was represented by a delegation of 51 persons from the Department of States and other U.S. government departments and agencies as well as from the U.S. private sector. U.S. achievements at the Plenipotentiary Conference were due to the hard work of the United States Delegation, both at the conference and during the lengthy preparatory period. I believe that this is a testament to the central importance of the International Telecommunication Union, both to U.S. industry and to a substantial number of U.S. government agencies. As it has in the past, we will continue to work to strengthen and provide leadership to this essential international organization.

Sincerely yours,

Ambassador David A. Gross
United States Coordinator
International Communications and
Information Policy

The Honorable
Condoleeza Rice
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2006 International Telecommunication Union (ITU or Union) Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-06) convened in Antalya, Turkey on November 6-24, 2006. As the top policy-making body of the ITU, the Plenipotentiary Conference established the strategic vision for the Union for the upcoming four-year period; set the financial parameters for the organization, including the level of contributory unit for Member States and Sector Members; and elected the leadership of the ITU. Importantly, the United States was decisively re-elected to the ITU Council and successfully placed a U.S. national on the Radio Regulations Board.

The United States is pleased that the results of the Conference provide the ITU with a strong foundation to facilitate the development of advanced telecommunications services. International communications and information policy is vital to achieving U.S. priorities for democracy, economic growth, national security, and social development around the world. The ITU is the preeminent intergovernmental organization through which the United States pursues its international communication policy goals. We consider the ITU as essential to meeting key U.S. policy objectives by: a) objectively handling spectrum allocations for commercial and government including military radio services; b) facilitating interoperability, interconnection and global connectivity of telecommunications networks and services; and c) assisting developing countries in building human, institutional and organizational capacity in the field of telecommunications.

In the four years since the 2002 Marrakesh Plenipotentiary Conference, the world of telecommunications has changed dramatically with growing evidence of technological convergence, evolving Next Generation Networks (NGNs), and the rapid growth of telecommunications (particularly wireless technology) in developing countries. The UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in two phases in 2003 and 2005, was a pivotal policy event where the international community highlighted the importance of information and communication technologies for economic development. The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference was affected by this changing technology environment and evolving international policy debate.

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, the ITU is impacted by the ongoing debate within the U.N. system on how to implement serious

management reforms. Faced with the Union's own set of financial and administrative challenges, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference continued efforts to improve accountability and efficiency in order to ensure that the organization continues to meet the needs of its members, both the Member States and Sector Members.

Consistent with U.S. proposals, PP-06 adopted a balanced budget requirement and introduced results-based management to the organization. Importantly, the ITU enhanced Member State oversight of ITU activities by creating a Management and Budget Group that will meet several times a year in which the USG will participate. The ITU maintained a budget ceiling that reflects zero nominal growth and also committed to measures to promote transparency in the ITU budget process.

The newly elected Secretary-General, Mr. Hamadoun Touré of Mali, expressed a commitment to transparency and sound financial management, and the U.S. looks forward to working closely with the ITU leadership to ensure that the organization continues on a path to greater efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. The U.S. continues to believe that, in order to live within budgetary realities, priorities must be established and activities must fall squarely within the Union's core competencies. We look forward to working with the ITU management towards that end.

U.S. Delegation Principles and Objectives:

The U.S. delegation to PP-06 was guided by the following broad principles and key objectives:

Guiding Principles

- Ensure that the ITU continues to perform vital functions in the area of radiocommunication and telecommunication standardization efficiently and effectively.
- Promote institutional reform in order to improve Member State oversight of the organization, strengthen the accountability of ITU officials, and enhance the overall efficiency of ITU activities.
- Secure sufficient budgetary support within the current zero nominal

growth limits of the overall ITU budget for the efficient operations of the ITU Radiocommunication (R), Standardization (T) and Development (D) Sectors.

- Preserve the role of the private sector in the ITU.
- Ensure that the ITU promotes an enabling environment and fosters predictable, transparent, pro-competitive regulatory policies for telecommunication, particularly in developing countries.

Key Objectives

- Maintain the current organizational structure of the ITU.
- Enhance Member State oversight of ITU activities by strengthening the role of the ITU Council in the management of ITU resources.
- Re-elect the United States to the ITU Council and elect a U.S. citizen to the Radio Regulations Board (RRB).
- Maintain a budget ceiling reflecting zero nominal growth, promote transparency in ITU budget processes, advocate prioritization of ITU activities and support a balanced budget for the Union.
- Preserve the stability and security of the Internet while promoting private sector leadership in the technical development and management of the Internet, in particular, in relation to the Internet's domain name and addressing system (DNS).

II. CONFERENCE PREPARATORY EFFORTS

Administrative Arrangements

In May 2006, the Executive Director of the State Department's Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs together with the head of the Administrative Office of the Office of International Conferences, Bureau of International Organization Affairs and an EB/CIP staff member made a trip to Antalya, Turkey to survey the site for the 2006 Plenipotentiary Conference regarding hotels for the delegation as well as delegation office space. The group visited a number of other hotels, but selected the Sungate Port Royal Hotel for its convenience to the conference site.

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara entered into a contract for the hotel rooms for the U.S. government members of the delegation and handled the payment for those rooms. In addition, U.S. Embassy staff researched and procured equipment, supplies, and personnel for the delegation office. The Embassy also assigned two regional security officers and three FSN security staff to provide coverage for the duration of the three week conference. In addition, a FSN from General Services Office of the Embassy assisted the delegation for the first half of the conference.

The delegation offices were quite spacious with an office for the head of delegation and a large meeting/work room. The delegation work room was equipped with five computers, two printers, a fax and two telephones; a copier was placed in the hall. All the computers had Internet access. Following the departure of the FSN from Ankara, a contract employee worked in the delegation office to assist with flight arrangements and local travel for the head of delegation. Personnel from the computer company and the copier company were also available to ensure the smooth functioning of the equipment. All these arrangements provided good support to the delegation. The delegation office was managed by an officer from the Department of State's Office of International Conferences. She was assisted by the Deputy Director of EEB's Executive Office and by a member of EEB/CIP.

Policy Preparations

The USG began formal policy preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference in January 2006. Proposals from Member States to amend the

Constitution and Convention of the ITU were due by 6 March 2006. In total, the U.S. submitted fifty-eight proposals to the Conference including amendments to the Constitution and Convention as well as proposals to modify existing Resolutions, proposals for new Resolutions and proposals to suppress obsolete Resolutions. U.S. proposals to the Conference were developed by representatives of USG agencies. In addition, input from the private sector was received through the International Telecommunication Advisory Committee (ITAC).

A key factor early in the U.S. preparations was a series of Working Groups of Council that reported to the Conference on issues such as the 2008-2011 Strategic/Financial plans, implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and the Council Oversight Group. Additionally, the 2006 Council which took place on 19-28 April 2006 in Geneva was critical to laying the groundwork for the Conference. These Council activities were an important opportunity for the U.S. to help shape the Plenipotentiary debate on finance and management issues as well as WSIS and Internet matters.

The delegation was formed and held its first meeting in October 2006. Ambassador David A. Gross, U.S. Coordinator, International Communications and Information Policy, was named to head the U.S. delegation. He had previously led U.S. delegations to many other major international conferences, such as the UN World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 and 2005 as well as the 2002 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. Appendix A contains Ambassador Gross' speech to the Plenipotentiary Conference and Appendix B has the United States delegation list.

Bilateral and Multilateral Activities

In the months leading up to the Plenipotentiary Conference, U.S. officials reached out bilaterally to key ITU Member States to discuss issues relevant to the Conference. During visits to Tokyo, Beijing, Bonn, Paris, London, and Ottawa, senior USG officials engaged in bilateral discussions about a wide range of ITU issues in advance of the Conference in an effort to forge coalitions and to identify areas of common ground. In addition, visits to Washington by candidates from Switzerland, Mali, Ghana, and Tunisia offered the U.S. an opportunity to learn about the candidates' vision for the future of the ITU and for the positions that they were seeking.

U.S. multilateral coordination included extensive consultations with Western Hemisphere nations in the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), a specialized body of the Organization of American States. A CITEL Plenipotentiary Preparatory meeting was held in Washington at OAS Headquarters in May 2002. An EEB/CIP staff member and Julie Zoller, the U.S. candidate for the ITU Radio Regulations Board (RRB) traveled to Poland to participate in the CEPT Plenipotentiary Preparations meeting to solicit European support for the U.S. candidacy for the ITU Council as well as for Ms. Zoller's candidacy for the RRB.

Ambassador Gross held numerous bilateral and informal discussions at the Plenipotentiary Conference itself. Ambassador Gross used these bilaterals to advance U.S. positions and gain support for U.S. re-election to the ITU Council and the election of the U.S. candidate, Julie Zoller, for the Radio Regulations Board. Formal bilaterals, usually at the Ministerial level, were held with South Africa, Mali, Cameroon, Israel, Egypt, China, Brazil, Morocco, Tunisia, Singapore, Korea, Japan, Rwanda, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Ghana, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Qatar, Honduras and Nigeria. Numerous informal discussions were held during the conference.

To advance its candidacy for the ITU Council and the Radio Regulations Board, the U.S. held two luncheons for ITU Councilors during the April meeting of the ITU Council. Additionally, during the Plenipotentiary Conference, the U.S. held a widely attended reception on Tuesday, November 14, ahead of the elections for Council and the RRB.

III. Structure of ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006)

The 2006 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference established six committees and one Working Group of the Plenary to conduct the work of the Conference. The Conference structure, committee chairpersons, and United States spokespersons were:

Chairperson:	Dr. T. Cataltepe (Turkey)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Amb. David A. Gross (United States of America)
	H.E. Mr. L. Reiman (Russian Federation)
	Mr. K. Smaaland (Norway)
	H.E. Mr. M.J. Mulla (Saudi Arabia)
	Mr. H. Chono (Japan)
	H.E. Mr. P. Mvouo (Congo)

Committee 1 – Steering Committee

The Committee was composed of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference and of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the committees and of the Working Group of the Plenary.

Chairperson:	Dr. T. Cataltepe
United States Spokesperson:	Ambassador David A. Gross

Terms of reference:

To coordinate all matters connected with the smooth execution of work and to plan the order and number of meetings, avoiding overlapping wherever possible in view of the limited number of members of some delegations (no. 67 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union; Marrakesh, 2002).

Committee 2 – Credentials Committee

Chairperson:	Mr. E.C. Ndukwe (Nigeria)
Vice Chairpersons:	Mr. M. Ghazal (Lebanon)
	Mr. W.M. Rullens (Netherlands)

United States Spokesperson: Ms. Anne Jillson (State Department)

Terms of Reference:

To verify the credentials of delegations and to report on its conclusions to the plenary meeting within the time specified by the latter (No. 68 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union; Marrakesh, 2002).

Committee 3 – Budget Control Committee

Chairperson: Mr. R. Gonzales Bustamante (Mexico)
Vice Chairpersons: Dr. F. Goebbels (Germany)
Mr. M. Makhmudov (Uzbekistan)

United States Spokesperson: Mr. William Jahn

Terms of Reference:

To determine the organization and the facilities available to the delegates, to examine and approve the accounts for expenditure incurred throughout the duration of the Conference and to report to the plenary meeting on the estimated total expenditure of the Conference and on the estimated costs entailed by the execution of the decisions of the Conference (No. 73 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union; Marrakesh 2002).

Committee 4 – Editorial Committee

Chairperson: Ms. M.-T. Alajouanine (France)
Vice-Chairpersons: Ms. E. Val (United Kingdom)
Mr. M. Zaragoza Mifsud (Spain)
Mr. A. Svechnikov (Russian Federation)
Ms. Z. Nie Zheng (China)
Mr. H. Lebbadi (Morocco)

United States Spokesperson: Mr. William Luther

Terms of Reference:

To perfect the form of the texts to be included in the Final Acts of the Conference, without altering the sense, for submission to the plenary meeting (no. 69 of the General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union; Marrakesh, 2002)

Committee 5 – Policy and Legal Matters

Chairperson: Mr. K. Arasteh (Iran)
Vice Chairperson: Ms. J. Doran (Canada)
Mr. J. Nkoma (Tanzania)

United States Spokespersons: Mr. Frank Williams (State Department)
Mr. Richard Beaird (State Department)

Terms of Reference:

To consider reports and proposals related to policy matters of the Union, including the reports submitted by the council on the activities of the Union, to recommend appropriate decisions with respect to the activities of the General Secretariat and the three sectors, and to examine proposals for amending the Constitution, Convention, General Rules and Optional Protocol and, taking into account relevant reports and recommendations from Committee 6 and the Working Group of the Plenary, to recommend all appropriate actions to the Plenary. To consider any other questions of a legal nature raised during the Conference.

- Ad Hoc Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations: Chairperson Mr. C. Thomas (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Drafting Group on Definitions: Mr. D. Kershaw (New Zealand)
- Drafting Group on Simon Bolivar Satellite Networks: Concerned Administrations
- Drafting Group on Resolution 14: Concerned Administrations
- Drafting Group on Resolution 21: Concerned Administrations
- Drafting Group on Resolution 22: Concerned Administrations
- Drafting Group on Resolution 22: Concerned Administrations
- Drafting Group on Resolution 119: Concerned Administrations
- Drafting Group on Observers at Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings: Canada and Russian Federation only
- Drafting Group on the Role of the WTSA: Concerned Administrations

- Drafting Group on Future Host Country Agreements: Turkey, United States and Viet Nam only
- Drafting Group on Amendments to the Constitution on the Periodicity of WRCs and RAs: Concerned Administrations

Committee 6 – Administration and Management

Chairperson: Mr. F. Riehl (Switzerland)
 Vice Chairpersons: Ms. Marie Odile Beau (France)
 Mr. V. Burmistenko (Ukraine)
 Mr. M. Fall (Senegal)
 Ms. C. Chitraswang (Thailand)

United States Spokespersons: Ms. Joyce Namde (State Department)
 Mr. Richard Beaird (State Department)

Terms of Reference:

To consider the draft strategic plan presented by council and other reports and proposals related to the Union's Strategic Plan, and to recommend appropriate decisions. To examine relevant reports and proposals on the general management of the Union, in particular those relating to financial and human resources and including relevant parts of the reports submitted by other committees and working groups; to prepare draft financial policies and a draft Financial Plan for 2008-2011 and to recommend to the Plenary all appropriate decisions related to the management of the Union's activities; and to transmit to Committee 5 matters requiring amendments to the Constitution, Convention and General Rules.

Committee 6 established the following working groups and drafting groups to facilitate its work and coordinate various proposals from Member States.

- Working Group on the Strategic Plan: Chairperson, Ms. Marie Odile Beau (France)
- Working Group on the reinforcement of the regional presence: Chairperson, Mr. J.F. Nacif (Brazil)
- Working Group on languages: Chairperson, Mr. Fall (Senegal)
- Working Group on TELECOM: Chairperson, Ms. Vernita Harris (United States of America)
- Ad Hoc Group on Network Filing Cost Recover: Chairperson, Mr. K. Aresteh (Iran)

- Working Group on NCOG: Chairperson, Mr. D. Toure (Mali)
- Drafting Group on arrears and special arrears accounts: Chairperson, Mr. B. Gracie (Canada)
- Drafting Group on human resources management: Chairperson, Mr. E. Harvey (Australia)
- Drafting Group on assistance and support to countries in special needs: Chairperson, Mr. D. Plesse (Germany)
- Drafting Group on Strengthening of the Project Execution function in the ITU: Chairperson, Mr. B. Gracie (Canada)

Working Group of the Plenary on the World Summit on the Information Society

Chairperson: Mr. R. N. Agarwal (India)
 Vice Chairpersons: Mr. M. Ouhadj (Algeria)
 Mr. A. Nalbandian (Armenia)
 Mr. J. C. Albernaz (Brazil)

U.S. Spokespersons: Ms. Sally Shipman (State Department)
 Mr. Richard Beaird (State Department)
 Ms. Fiona Alexander (Commerce Department)

Terms of Reference:

To consider reports and proposals with regard to issues related to the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Internet; and to transmit to Committee 5 matters requiring amendments to the Constitution, Convention and General Rules, and to Committee 6 matters concerning the budget.

The Working Group of the Plenary established the following ad hoc groups and drafting groups to facilitate its work and coordinate various proposals from Member States.

- Ad Hoc Group on Civil Society: Co-Chaired by Argentina and Switzerland
- Ad Hoc Group on Resolutions 102 and 133: Chaired by Norway and later by Netherlands

- Ad Hoc Group on Resolutions 130 and Resolution TUR-2: Chaired by United Kingdom
- Drafting Group on Resolutions 24, 31, 129 and WSIS: Convened by United States
- Drafting Group on Resolution 101: Convened by Arab States, Europe and United States
- Drafting Group on Resolution 131: Convened by Mexico

Ad Hoc Group of the Plenary on Council Membership

Chairperson: Mr. K. Smaaland (Norway)

Terms of Reference:

To consider proposals to increase the number of Member States of Council by one based on the increase in Member States of the Union since 1994.

IV. RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Financial and Management Issues

Strategic Plan and Financial Plan: The Conference adopted the Strategic Plan for the Union for 2008-2011 that carried forward the many changes that the U.S. proposed during negotiations prior to the Conference. The Conference was not able to agree on a balanced Financial Plan for the 2008-2011 period. Instead, a decision was adopted that provides guidelines and a framework for the annual meetings of Council to establish balanced budgets for the two biennial periods, within the limits established by the Plenipotentiary for the contributory unit. The requirement to adopt balanced budgets was a U.S. proposal that received support from many delegations, including the major financial contributors. The United States played a key role in drafting the conference decision and included language requiring that the income and expenditures in the biennial budgets be balanced.

As required by the Constitution, Council at its meeting in April 2006 fixed the provisional amount of the contributory unit (CU) at 318,000 Swiss francs (CHF), which is zero nominal growth. The Conference adopted 318,000 CHF as the definitive value of the CU for the 2008-09 period. The 2009 Council will determine if the CU will rise for the 2010-11 budgetary period and by how much, within the upper limit of 330,000 CHF. A resolution was adopted instructing Council to study the possibilities of generating additional income for the ITU and establishing mechanisms to afford more financial stability to the organization.

Member States select their class of financial contribution to the ITU. Prior to the Conference, the Secretary General informed Member States of the provisional amount of the contributory unit and invited them to notify the Secretary General of the provisional class of contribution that they had selected no later than one week prior to the opening of the Conference. Once the definitive upper level of the value of the CU was adopted by the Conference, Member States announced their definitive choice of class of contribution. In recent years, Member States have announced significant decreases in their class of contributions putting additional pressure on the Financial Plan. At this conference, Switzerland decreased its class of contribution from 15 units to 10. This decrease was evidently the result of Switzerland's disappointment at losing in the race for Secretary-General.

Sector Member Dues: The Plenipotentiary Conference considered proposals from several Member States to raise the ratio of the contributory unit for Sector Members (private sector companies and associations) from one fifth to one fourth that of Member States as a way to increase revenues for the ITU. The United States opposed the increase, arguing instead that a lower level ensured broad industry participation from both developed and developing countries in ITU activities. A number of developed and developing country delegations were also concerned that an increase in dues might discourage industry participation in the ITU. The ITU Secretariat, in preparing the draft Financial Plan, assumed that Sector Member dues would be increased and that this increase would generate approximately 20M CHF in additional revenue, a projection that the U.S. questioned. The United States, supported by many Member States, proposed that the Sector Member contributory unit ratio and their contributions to the ITU should be studied until the 2010 Plenipotentiary Conference. The proposal to study this issue was accepted and the ratio of the contributory unit for Sector Members remained unchanged.

Management and Budget Group: A key U.S. objective for the Conference was to enhance Member State oversight of ITU activities by strengthening the role of the ITU Council in the management of ITU resources. In furtherance of this objective, the U.S. has supported the establishment of working groups of Council to study issues and develop recommendations where appropriate. Many of the working groups work by correspondence. Appendix E contains a list of the working groups established by the Conference, their purpose, and provides other details concerning these groups.

A major new U.S. initiative, a proposal to establish an expanded oversight body called the Management and Budget Group (MBG), was adopted. The MBG is to meet periodically between Council sessions with representatives of the Secretary General and of the Directors of the Bureaus regarding implementation of the Strategic and Operational Plans, the biennial budgets and the decisions of Council. Establishment of the MBG was an important step in improving the management of the Union and is in line with U.S. reform policies within the UN system.

Results-Based Management: The ITU joined other UN organizations in adopting a resolution to introduce results-based management. This system

introduces two new management processes: (1) delegation of authority and accountability intended to foster more efficient use of all resources and to establish more agile and responsive organizations; and (2) contractual arrangements (i.e. outsourcing) which are linked to levels of compensation and cost savings.

Arrearages: To address the issue of large arrearages for cost recovery services, particularly satellite network filings, the U.S. successfully introduced the application of prepayment to cost recovery products and services “to the maximum extent possible”. The U.S. will continue to urge the Radiocommunication Bureau to apply the prepayment to satellite filings, the largest source of both cost recovery income and arrears. The cancellation of 6.2 million CHF in invoices due to over billing of satellite filers prior to 2003 was approved but the issue of how to deal with the remaining millions of CHF in unpaid invoices was forwarded to the 2007 Council for further study.

Human Resources Management

A request was made by the Staff Council to change Resolution 51 to allow the staff to address plenipotentiary conferences as a matter of right rather than at the invitation of the Chairman of the meeting. The Conference determined that the current practice was satisfactory but stressed that a cooperative relationship should be maintained, and flexibility exercised.

The staff council also proposed changes to the management and control of the Staff Welfare Fund to give the staff control over its management. The Administration and Management Committee concluded that changes to the management of the Fund would not be in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Union, since it would place the funds outside the Union’s accounts and beyond the accountability of the Secretary-General.

The Conference adopted revisions to Resolution 48 on human resources management and development that emphasize staff development and redeployment of staff to more adequately meet the needs of the organization.

WSIS and Internet Issues

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): In the aftermath of

the WSIS, a number of administrations proposed expanding the work program of the ITU to take on a larger role in implementing the outcomes of WSIS. The Conference confirmed an important role for the ITU on Information Society issues related to infrastructure development and cybersecurity, consistent with the existing mandate of the ITU and with the U.S. position. These tasks do not represent an expansion of the ITU's role in Information Society matters, but rather an affirmation of the outcomes of the WSIS. The USG and the U.S. private sector support and actively contribute to ITU activities in these two areas and consider the Plenipotentiary Conference results, with respect to the WSIS, to be constructive in facilitating further dialogue and activities amongst the ITU Members (governments and private sector members) on issues of global infrastructure development and cybersecurity.

The debate over WSIS also included an extended discussion over the extent to which WSIS stakeholders should be included in the activities of the ITU. This was a politically sensitive issue as it raised the possibility of expanding the membership of the ITU to include civil society. Given the nature of the organization as a treaty body and given the financial issues surrounding the possible inclusion of new stakeholders in the ITU's work, it was agreed that the ITU Council should establish a working group to consider the range of issues associated with the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the activities of the Union related to the WSIS. The results of this study will be reported to the next Plenipotentiary Conference in 2010.

Internet issues: The Conference did not adopt an enhanced role for the ITU in Internet Governance, contrary to the proposals of some Member States. Resolution 102 on the Internet domain name and address system (DNS) was renegotiated to focus the ITU role towards providing a venue for the exchange of views on public policy issues and away from the technical mission of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The United States supports the involvement of the ITU in issues associated with the development and deployment of IP-based networks, including the Internet, consistent with the core competencies of the Union. While the United States recognizes that the current Internet system is working, the U.S. encourages an ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders around the world in the various fora, including the ITU, as a way to facilitate discussion and to advance our shared interest in the ongoing robustness and dynamism of the Internet. In this context, the U.S. supported the revised Resolution 102.

Discussions regarding Resolution 130 on ICT network security were contentious because of inconsistencies in the usage of security-related terminology by different Administrations. The U.S. believes that the ITU has an important role to play in the area of *network* security but was concerned about efforts to expand the ITU's scope to include issues related to national security or Internet content. The United States did, however, agree to a study on security-related terms used in the ITU, through an ITU Council Working Group, in this upcoming four-year cycle. A revised Resolution 130, entitled "Strengthening the Role of the ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies" was also adopted. Resolution 130 emphasizes the importance of the ITU's ongoing cybersecurity activities, particularly in light of the results of WSIS.

ITU Name/Scope: Proposals were submitted to the Conference to modify Article 1 of the Constitution to amend the term telecommunications to include information technology. Concerned that such a change would suggest an expanded mandate for the ITU, the U.S. opposed the inclusion of terms such as "information technology", "info-communications" and "information and communication technologies" in the ITU Constitution and Convention until the membership reaches agreement about what the various terms mean and how the inclusion of those terms will affect the ITU treaty texts. Proposals were also made to change the name of the ITU to reflect the ITU's activities in relation to the Information Society. A number of countries, including the U.S., voiced opposition to these proposals on the grounds that the ITU name has global recognition and is sufficiently broad to encompass the changing telecommunications environment.

The United States did agree to use the term telecommunications/ICTs in operational documents (resolutions, strategic plan, etc.). A review of terminology used to describe telecommunications in the ITU Constitution and Convention will be conducted through a Council Working Group over the next four years. The debate on this issue reflects an interest by Member States in altering the treaty text to account for changes in their various domestic legal systems, changing technology and new national priorities.

Elections

The General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union call for elections to begin the ninth calendar day of the conference. Since Plenipotentiary Conferences are now three weeks in duration instead of four weeks, one of the first substantive decisions of the Conference was to amend the General Rules to state that elections shall begin on the fourth calendar day of the conference. This change came into effect immediately allowing elections to begin on Thursday of the first week of the Conference.

Elections for the Five Senior Officials

The elections for the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and the Directors of the three Bureaus took several ballots because there were multiple candidates for most of the offices. Valery Timofeev of the Russian Federation, the only incumbent eligible for re-election, was re-elected unopposed as Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau. The incumbents in the other four elected positions had served their two terms so they were not eligible for re-election to their current posts. The new ITU leadership assumed office on January 1, 2007.

The Secretary General

In the election for Secretary General, there were six candidates. One of the candidates, Roberto Blois, was the incumbent Deputy Secretary-General and another, Hamadoun Toure, was the incumbent Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau. Ms. Nijem and Mr. Quali withdrew after the first ballot and Messrs. Blois and Furrer after the second ballot. Mr. Toure of Mali was elected on the third ballot with 95 of 155 votes.

Secretary General Candidates	Country	First Ballot	Second Ballot	Third Ballot
Hamadoun Toure	Mali	53	72	95
Matthias Kurth	Germany	45	51	60
Roberto Blois	Brazil	29	24	
Marc Furrer	Switzerland	14	9	
Montasser Quaili	Tunisia	9		
Muna Nijem	Jordan	5		

The Deputy Secretary General

There were four candidates for the position of Deputy Secretary-General. After the election of Mr. Toure of Mali as Secretary General, the Delegation of Ghana announced the withdrawal of its candidate for Deputy prior to the voting. Mr. Houlin Zhao of China was elected on the first ballot with 93 of 155 votes.

Deputy Secretary General Candidates	Country	First Ballot
Houlin Zhao	China	93
Carlos Sanchez	Spain	34
T. Ayhan Beydogan	Turkey	28
John Ray Kwabena Tandoah	Ghana	Candidate withdrawn

The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Valery Timofeev of Russia, the current Director of the Radiocommunication Sector, was re-elected for a second term without opposition.

BR Bureau Candidate	Country	First Ballot
Valery Timofeev	Russian Federation	158

The Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

There were four candidates for the position of Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau. Mr. Bigi withdrew after the first ballot and Mr. Park withdrew after the second ballot. Mr. Malcolm Johnson of the UK was elected on the third ballot by four votes over Mr. Inoue of Japan, 83 to 79.

TSB Bureau Candidates	Country	First Ballot	Second Ballot	Third Ballot
Malcolm Johnson	United Kingdom	46	60	83
Yuji Inoue	Japan	59	64	79
Kishik Park	Republic of Korea	39	35	
Fabio Bigi	Italy	15		

The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

There were four candidates for the position of Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau. Mr. Boussaid withdrew after the first ballot and Ms. Rochdi after the second ballot. Mr. Sami Al Basheer of Saudi Arabia was elected on the third ballot with 91 of 161 votes.

BDT Bureau Candidates	Country	First Ballot	Second Ballot	Third Ballot
Sami Al-Basheer	Saudi Arabia	47	63	91
Patrick Francis Masambu	Uganda	49	58	70
Najat Rochdi	Morocco	39	37	
Abdelkrim Karim Boussaid	Algeria	25		

Elections for Council and the Radio Regulations Board

One of the primary objectives of the United States for the Conference was to be re-elected to the 46-member ITU Council that meets annually and acts as the governing body of the Union between Plenipotentiary Conferences. Our representation at the Council meetings is the primary mechanism through which the U.S. pursues managerial and budgetary reform in the ITU. Council considers and approves the biennial budgets of the Union.

Another important objective was to elect the U.S. candidate for the Radio Regulations Board (RRB), Ms. Julie Zoller. The RRB is an independent body within the ITU that acts as the ultimate authority on application of the international Radio Regulations between World Radiocommunication Conferences. Through the ITU Radio Regulations (a treaty document that is negotiated every 4-5 years), the United States obtains and protects the use of radio frequencies and satellite orbital positions by government, commercial space, and terrestrial operators. The election of a U.S. national to the Board is important in order to protect U.S. economic and national security interests in the field of radiocommunications.

The Delegation met both of these objectives in a resounding manner. The United States was re-elected to Council with 128 votes, one of the highest vote tallies that the U.S. has ever received. Ms. Zoller was elected to the RRB with the largest number of votes of any of the four Region A (the Western Hemisphere) candidates. Ms. Zoller and Ms. Limodine of France are the first women to be elected to an ITU post. The Members of the Radio Regulations Board assumed office on January 1, 2007.

Council Election Results

The Conference held elections for the 46 Members of Council on November 16-17, 2006. There was a tie on the first ballot between Ukraine and Poland for the last Eastern Europe seat. Ukraine won in a runoff vote. These elections produced few changes in the composition of the ITU Council for 2007-2011. Those countries listed below with an asterisk next to their name are newly elected members. Double asterisks indicate incumbents not re-elected.

Region A: Americas (8 seats)	Votes
Brazil	143
Mexico	131
Argentina	129
United States	128
Canada	124
Cuba	115
Trinidad and Tobago *	103
Venezuela	100

<i>Not Elected</i>	Votes
Dominican Republic	91
El Salvador	77
Ecuador	62

Region B: Western Europe (8 seats)	Votes
France	140
Spain	134
Switzerland	133
Germany	132
Sweden *	132
Italy	123
Portugal	121
Turkey	120

<i>Not Elected</i>	Votes
United Kingdom	115

Region C: Eastern Europe (5 seats)	Votes
Russian Federation	135
Romania	102
Bulgaria	99
Czech Republic	96
Ukraine *	77

<i>Not Elected</i>	Votes
Poland	69
Kazakhstan	74
Azerbaijani Republic	57

Region D: Africa (13 seats)	Votes
Morocco	117
Senegal	117
Algeria	115
Nigeria	114
Mali	113
Tunisia	113
South Africa	112
Egypt	111
Ghana	107
Burkina Faso	103
Kenya	97
Tanzania *	97
Cameroon	95

<i>Not Elected</i>	Votes
Uganda **	93
Sudan	63
Cote d'Ivoire	62
Rwanda	59
Zambia	56
Burundi	52
Gabonese Republic	48

Region E: Asia and Australasia (12 seats)	Votes
Japan	140
Korea (Republic of)	133
China	132
Thailand	125
Malaysia	122
United Arab Emirates *	119
Indonesia	118
Pakistan	117
India	113
Philippines *	113
Saudi Arabia	110
Australia	106

<i>Not Elected</i>	Votes
Kuwait	97
Viet Nam **	91
Lebanon	89
Iran (Islam Rep. Of) **	74

Radio Regulations Board Election Results

*The election of Radio Regulations Board took place on November 16, 2006.
The results of the election are as follows:*

Region A: Americas	Country	Votes
Julie Napier Zoller	USA	122
Robert W. Jones	Canada	94

<i>Not Elected</i>	Country	Votes
Mikhail Marsiglia	Venezuela	60
Gerardo Zepeda-Bermudez	Honduras	39

Region B: Western Europe	Country	Votes
Mindaugas Zilinskas	Lithuania	154
Martine Limodin	France	151

Region C: Eastern Europe	Country	Votes
Baiysh Nurmатов	Kyrgyzstan	122
Wladyslaw Moron	Poland	93

Region D: Africa	Country	Votes
Hassan Lebbadi	Morocco	154
Shola Taylor	Nigeria	154
Aboubakar Zourmba	Cameroon	151

Region E: Asia and Australasia	Country	Vote
Ali Ebadi	Malaysia	117
Shahzada Alam Malik	Pakistan	110
P.K. Garg	India	103

Political Issues

Cuba: During the sixth Plenary Meeting, Cuba introduced its document 33 with an annexed resolution entitled “Failure by the United States of America to comply with the provisions of the Constitution, the Convention and the Radio Regulations of the ITU in regard to broadcasting transmissions against Cuba”. The resolution called for the ITU to urge the United States to cease its transmissions towards Cuba in the sound and television broadcasting bands. The U.S. responded by reading a statement into the record (See Appendix C) opposing the adoption of the Cuban resolution, noting the actions that are being taken place to resolve the Cuban complaints to the Radio Regulations Board and stating that the issue of alleged harmful interference is not an appropriate matter for the Plenipotentiary Conference to address but is best dealt with through established procedures under the Radio Regulations.

Discussions with the concerned parties continued in meetings convened by the Chairman of the Conference and with the participation of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau. These discussions culminated in an agreed statement, (See Appendix D) that was read into the plenary record by the Chairman of the Conference on November 22. The statement notes that the ITU will continue to handle the cases of alleged harmful interference in accordance with relevant ITU procedures. The statement of the Conference Chairman was coordinated with the Department and was in accordance with the U.S. position on this matter. No further action was taken on the Cuban resolution at the Conference.

Lebanon: Lebanon introduced a resolution calling for assistance to rebuild its telecommunications infrastructure that initially contained objectionable references to Israeli aggression. The U.S. successfully encouraged Lebanon to revise the resolution to focus exclusively on technical assistance and to remove all references to Israel. The resulting resolution was fully acceptable to all parties including the United States.

The Palestinian Authority: The Arab Group initially presented a proposed modification to Resolution 99 (Minneapolis, 1998) that would have provided the Palestinian Authority with significantly enhanced status in the ITU including most rights enjoyed by Member States, except for voting and the presentation of candidacies during ITU elections. In discussions outside the Plenary, a compromise was reached whereby the Palestinian Authority

received enhanced observer rights comparable to those it already receives under UNGA Resolution 52/250. In addition, Palestinian private telecommunication companies are eligible to become ITU Sector Members (with somewhat fewer rights than Sector Members from Member States) or Associate members. It is notable that the Palestinian Authority will not play a role in approving the entities for sector membership; the ITU Secretary-General will perform that function. The compromise solution was supported by Israel and was adopted by consensus.

Other Major Conference Issues

International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs): The United States managed to once again defer holding a World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) to update the existing ITRs. The International Telecommunication Regulations are an international treaty governing the provision and operation of public telecommunication services, as well as the underlying transport mechanisms used to provide them. The regulations provide a broad, basic framework for telecommunication administrations and operators in the provision of international telecommunication services. The ITRs were last updated in 1988.

A resolution was adopted at the 2006 Plenipotentiary Conference calling for a continued review of the existing ITRs and suggesting that a fourth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) be used to discuss emerging telecommunications policy and regulatory issues. A separate Resolution was adopted that agreed to hold the (WTPF) in the first quarter of 2009 with the following terms of reference: focus on emerging telecommunications policy and regulatory issues with respect to international telecommunication networks and services for the purpose of understanding them and possibly developing options. Any revision of the ITRs will wait until after appropriate review and consideration of the results of the WTPF, and will not take place until 2012. This was a victory for the United States, as many ITU Member States supported the convening of a conference to immediately revise and expand the ITRs, with the objective of including Internet issues. The United States believes that the existing ITRs continue to be relevant as billions of dollars of international telecommunications traffic is successfully settled annually under the current procedures. As a result, the U.S. strongly opposed any revision of the ITRs.

Development Issues: ICT for development is a key priority for the USG

and the U.S. Delegation was active on a range of development issues at the Conference. The U.S. chaired a drafting group to substantially revise and improve a resolution on the use of Telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide. The delegation was also keenly interested in ensuring that the successful Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) continues as a regular activity of the Development Sector. The U.S. co-sponsored a resolution with the Mexican Administration to continue the ITU's work on Community Connectivity Indicators that was adopted. Finally, the U.S. supported several initiatives calling upon the ITU to offer technical assistance to countries recovering from natural disasters and wars and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its regional development offices.

The Use of Telecommunications/ICTs for Monitoring and Management in Emergency and Disaster Situations for Early Warning, Prevention, Mitigation and Relief: The Plenipotentiary adopted a new Resolution, based on a U.S. proposal, on using telecommunications and ICTs for emergency and disaster situations. The resolution calls for the continued development of ITU Recommendations that focus on technical and operational implementation of advanced solutions in such situations. It also supports the development of robust, comprehensive, all-hazards emergency and disaster early-warning, mitigation and relief systems, at national, regional, and international levels, including monitoring and management systems involving the use of telecommunications/ICTs (e.g., remote sensing), in collaboration with other international agencies, in order to support coordination at the global and regional level.

Conference Schedule: Based on a U.S. proposal, the Conference recognized that the ITU and its Members could not continue to support more than one world conference or assembly per year. Therefore, a Council working group was established to study alternatives for the frequency and duration of world conferences and assemblies as well as future Plenipotentiary Conferences.

Definition of Radiocommunication and Resolution 118: The U.S. position going into the conference was that the current ITU definition of radiocommunication in the Annex of the ITU Convention (CV1005), in conjunction with the current wording of Resolution 118, "Use of spectrum at frequencies above 3000 GHz", is adequate for the present state of optical communication services and allows a World Radiocommunication Conference to consider any necessary regulatory issues that may arise. The

current wording was approved at the 2002 Plenipotentiary Conference based on a U.S. proposal driven by increased U.S. use of optical communications for satellite systems. The Arab States and African common proposals both contained modifications to the definition of radiocommunication to delete its current limit to frequencies arbitrarily lower than 3000 GHz. The Arab proposal would have included communications via a wave guide such as a fiber optic cable. The U.S. and CEPT (European) countries both proposed no change to the definition of radiocommunication and Resolution 118. No consensus could be reached and neither the definition of radiocommunication nor Resolution 118 was changed at this Plenipotentiary Conference.

The conference did not adopt a CEPT proposal to delete the definition of broadcasting service from the Constitution (CS1010) and mobile service from the Convention (CV1003). Suppression of these definitions could have had potential impacts on the future international spectrum regulatory framework, an issue that was under study for WRC-07.

Andean Satellite System "Simón Bolívar": Andean countries requested extension of the deadline for implementation of the Andean Satellite System "Simón Bolívar 2" and "Simón Bolívar 2A" at orbital position 67° West Longitude, until 18 September 2009. Their request was based on Article 44, No. 196 of the ITU Constitution which states, in part, that the geostationary-satellite orbit and associated radio frequencies are a limited resource and that they must be used efficiently so that countries, "may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of developing countries and the geographic situation of particular countries." An appeal for re-instatement of the expired filing, which had expired due to normal time limits for bringing the satellite networks into use under the Radio Regulations, was turned down by the Radio Regulations Board. In principle, the United States does not support proposals for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference to grant time extensions for satellite networks to become operational. The U.S. believes that issues involving the ITU Radio Regulations remain under the purview of World Radiocommunication Conferences. The United States was instrumental, however, in finding an acceptable solution that allows the Andean Satellite System to be considered at the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference. As a result, the Plenipotentiary did not take any action on the request. In the meetings of

the Conference, the position of the Andean Administrations was noted. The Andean administrations were encouraged to refer the matter to the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference.

V. CONCLUSION

The United States delegation to the 2006 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference achieved all of its objectives for the Conference and believes that the results of the Conference place the ITU in a strong position to advance the goals and objectives set forth by the Membership at this Conference. Much credit is owed to U.S. government and private sector delegation members for their hard work in support of the U.S. goals and objectives. The United States is extremely pleased to have been re-elected to the ITU Council with one of the highest number of votes it has ever received and that Ms. Julie Zoller was elected to the Radio Regulations Board.

The question of how to integrate the results of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) into the ITU's activities was a dominant theme at this Plenipotentiary Conference. The U.S. successfully focused the ITU's post-WSIS work on infrastructure development and cybersecurity – areas where the ITU has proven expertise and an opportunity to provide policy leadership. On the difficult issue of the appropriate role for the ITU in Internet governance, the Conference agreed that the ITU will continue its role in the development and deployment of IP-based networks, including the Internet, consistent with the core competencies of the Union. Importantly, the role of the ITU in the operation or management of the Internet and its resources was not expanded. Furthermore, the ITU's International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) were not reopened or expanded at this Conference to include the Internet.

On issues of financial and administrative reform, the U.S. successfully promoted proposals for a balanced budget, zero nominal growth in the level of the contributory unit, and the creation of a management and budget group of the ITU Council. These measures, combined with new ITU leadership that has expressed commitment to improved transparency and accountability, will allow the ITU to meet the expectations of its Membership and to advance telecommunications around the globe.

The basic structure of the ITU was not changed by this Plenipotentiary Conference; however, a number of U.S. proposals to promote greater accountability and transparency were adopted. The U.S. supports the basic structure and core competencies of the Union and looks forward to working with the Membership to ensure that the ITU continues to operate within its mandate and available resources.

The ITU is unique amongst UN organizations with respect to the prominent role of Sector Members in the activities of the Union. The U.S. is pleased that the 2006 Plenipotentiary Conference recognized the vital role of the private sector and that the ITU Secretary General will seek ways to encourage broader industry participation in the ITU's activities. In an important decision, Members States did not increase Sector Member dues, a move that may have discouraged new participants, particularly from developing countries.

The 2006 Plenipotentiary Conference successfully addressed a broad range of complex issues and the consensus reached in Antalya provides the ITU with a solid framework for the coming four-year period. The United States looks forward to working with the ITU leadership and the Membership to achieve the strategic objectives set forth by the Conference. We expect to play a leadership role on the 2006-2010 ITU Council and are committed to working within Council to help ensure that the ITU remains responsive to its Membership and to the rapidly changing telecommunications environment.

APPENDIX A:

Opening Statement by Ambassador David A. Gross, Chairman of the United States Delegation to the 2006 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary-General, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is an honor to address this Conference on behalf of the Government of the United States of America. We wish to thank our hosts, who have greeted us with great warmth and hospitality. We would also like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election. We pledge our support to assist you in ensuring this Conference establishes a solid foundation for a productive next four years.

The ITU is to be congratulated for its role in the successful completion of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society. WSIS gave us a view of the future that is embodied in the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Commitment. During that Summit, global leaders declared the "common desire and commitment to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling . . . peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life . . ." This goal was embraced by all, but to be realized, governments must pursue policies that allow telecommunications and ICT networks to continue to evolve, while providing services that will advance development and social well-being, as well as the free flow of information. At the Summit, the ITU, consistent with its core competencies, was identified as the international organization uniquely suited to apply its expertise to activities related to network infrastructure and security.

Innovative telecommunication technologies have created new economic opportunities and brought benefits unimaginable just a few years ago. These technologies can bring educational, cultural, political, medical, scientific and commercial achievements to all. It is the responsibility of all governments to ensure that their domestic policies foster an enabling environment conducive to the deployment of these technologies, and to ensure the ability of their citizens to access and use them. Only through the

actions of each government can an environment be created which would allow the promise of ICTs to become reality.

Consistent with this important mission, over the past three years, the United States has contributed over \$250 million dollars directly to projects in developing countries aimed at expanding access to ICTs and promoting the free flow of information. For example, the President's Digital Freedom Initiative has brought together the U.S. government, the private sector, non-profits and universities to build technical capacity, empower people, and spur economic growth through greater use of ICTs. In 2007, it will expand to focus on increasing broadband connectivity, connecting rural areas and universities to allow voice and data transmission accross nations.

The 2006 Plenipotentiary Conference presents us with both challenges and opportunities. In the four years since the Marrakesh Plenipotentiary, the world of telecommunications has changed dramatically with the ongoing development of Next Generation Networks, major consolidations in the telecommunications industry, and the rapid growth of wireless telecommunications in developing countries. To face successfully the challenges of the future, we must envision what we want our organization to be. For us, it is critical that the ITU continue to perform its vital functions in the area of Radiocommunication and Standardization. It is also essential that we establish enabling environments that foster predictable, transparent, pro-competitive regulatory policies for telecommunication to advance global economic development. We also place great emphasis on promoting institutional reform, preserving the role of the private sector and providing sufficient resources to support efficient operations for the Union.

To meet these challenges at this critical time, it is essential that qualified, effective, and forward-looking ITU leaders be elected. We congratulate all of the candidates who have offered to serve the Union for the next four years and pledge to work closely with other ITU Members to ensure that our new leadership will have the necessary support.

We wish to join all Members in making the ITU more accountable, efficient and effective to facilitate the development of advanced telecommunications services. We believe this reform can be brought about through continuing in the work of modernizing the ITU's internal operations through enhancing the overall efficiency of ITU activities, including the establishment of results based budgeting.

Equally important, we need to meet the financial challenges that face the ITU. The United States believes it is incumbent on Member States to maintain a budget ceiling that reflects zero nominal growth and at the same time to promote transparency in the ITU budget process. To live within budgetary realities, priorities must be established, and activities must fall squarely within the Union's core competencies. It is imperative to identify resources before new activities are started.

We must adopt a Strategic Plan that will allow the ITU, along with Member States and Sector Members, to engage in international cooperative efforts to globally advance telecommunications. Priorities in the Union's work must be established in order to link the Strategic Plan, operational plans, and the financial plan to focus resources and energies towards the strategic goals that are agreed by the Membership.

To conclude, it is our mutual responsibility to ensure that the ITU continues to work within its core competencies facilitating the fundamental communications needs of all people. Over six decades ago, it was written in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that, "Everyone has the right to information, to freedom of opinion and expression. And this includes the right to freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers." It is our responsibility to see that these words --- and this promise --- is brought into reality. Telecommunications and ICTs are essential to fulfilling this promise.

We look forward to joining with all delegates, and with you Mr. Chairman, in making the 2006 Plenipotentiary a success. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

APPENDIX B:

U.S. Delegation to the 2006 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference

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APPENDIX C:

United States Response to the Statement by Cuba

The United States takes seriously its obligations under the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Constitution, Convention and Radio Regulations. The United States also affirms the importance of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers". This was recognized in paragraph 4 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, adopted at the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2003, which also acknowledged that "communication is a fundamental social process, a basic human need and the foundation of all social organization" and "is central to the Information Society". Paragraph 4 of the Tunis Commitment, adopted at the WSIS in 2005, reaffirmed these concepts and "recognized that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge, are essential for the Information Society and beneficial to development". The Cuban Administration has agreed with both documents. With regard to allegations from the Cuban Administration as to harmful interference, the United States follows the relevant procedures on harmful interference set forth in Article 15 of the Radio Regulations, as would any Member State in dealing with such a matter.

Mr Chairman, the record is clear on this issue – allow me to bring to the attention of this conference the relevant facts:

- At its 41st Meeting (4-8 September, 2006), with respect to U.S. emissions on AM radio frequency 530 kHz, the RRB noted that Cuba has no recorded assignments in the Master International Frequency Register on this frequency, and consequently the Cuban claims concerning that frequency cannot be treated as a matter of harmful interference.
- At its 40th Meeting, with respect to U.S. emissions on frequency 497 MHz (TV Channel 18), the RRB noted with satisfaction the declaration of the Administration of the United States that the transmissions in question have ceased. At its 41st meeting, the RRB concluded that this case can be closed.
- Also at its 41st Meeting, with respect to U.S. emissions on frequency 213 MHz (TV Channel 13), the RRB noted it was still awaiting the

results of the investigations of the United States Administration regarding the announced alternatives for resolving this case of harmful interference and instructed the Bureau to request the United States to provide the results of this investigation as soon as possible. This issue is still under investigation in the United States.

- At its 41st meeting, the RRB noted that there was a relatively new claim of alleged harmful interference on the frequency 509 MHz (TV Channel 20) and that the United States had acknowledged receipt of the relevant reports. The RRB instructed the Bureau to monitor the situation and to act in accordance with the procedures of Article 15 of the Radio Regulations. It said that if necessary the case will be reconsidered at the next RRB meeting (11-15 December, 2006).

In addition, the United States remains very concerned about Cuban actions that cause harmful interference to U.S. broadcasts. The United States has notified the Radiocommunication Bureau of repeated, ongoing and longstanding harmful interference by the Administration of Cuba to HF broadcasts by U.S. stations (on frequencies correctly notified to the ITU) inconsistent with provisions of the Constitution and the Radio Regulations. This harmful interference has been occurring for at least two years. Although the United States has sent at least thirty-three letters to the Administration of Cuba requesting, pursuant to RR 15.34, that it take steps to remove such interference, Cuba has never acknowledged receipt of any of these letters, notwithstanding the provisions of RR 15.35.

Article 15 procedures for dealing with cases of harmful interference are well established. Number 140 of the Convention clearly assigns to the RRB consideration of reports from the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau on investigations of alleged harmful interference and formulating recommendations thereto. Mr. Chairman, the appropriate procedures for dealing with issues similar to those we are discussing are well-known and are being followed by the United States Administration.

Hence, the BR and RRB, not the Plenipotentiary Conference, are the appropriate forums for dealing with the bilateral dispute between the Administration of the United States and the Administration of Cuba concerning allegations of harmful broadcast interference. Mr. Chairman, we request that this statement be entered into record of the Plenary. We are pleased to provide to you the statement in writing.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

APPENDIX D:

Statement to the Plenary by the Chairman Regarding Cuba

Based on the consideration of Document submitted by Cuba, and subsequent discussions on the issues raised in a group of the Plenary involving the administrations of Cuba and the United States concerning cases of reported harmful interference, including those cases upon which the Radio Regulations Board has made recommendations, the delegations of Cuba and the United States each concur with the proposal by the Chairman of the Plenipotentiary Conference, based on the information provided by the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), regarding the following course of action.

1 The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau will prepare a report based on detailed investigations, as required by the decision of the Radio Regulations Board, and submit it for the consideration of the Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters in December 2006, the Conference Preparatory Meeting in February 2007 and the World Radiocommunication Conference in November 2007. The report will provide details of the investigations by the Radiocommunication Bureau on existing and pending cases on the matter of reported harmful interference.

2 It is acknowledged that, consistent with the provisions of the ITU Constitution, Convention or the Administrative Regulations, including the Radio Regulations, concerning the settlement of disputes, the Director of BR has urged compliance with the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations concerning the matters of reported harmful interference.

3 In recognizing the importance of finding a solution to the issues raised, the Director and staff of BR avail themselves of the opportunity to assist, within the framework of the provisions of the Radio Regulations, in identifying actions which could be taken to improve or resolve cases of reported harmful interference in question.

4 There is an expectation that, as a result of the presentation of the Director of BR's report, the parties will give due regard to that Report, including actions suggested therein to address the matters of reported harmful interference, and to any relevant associated actions of the World Radiocommunication Conference.